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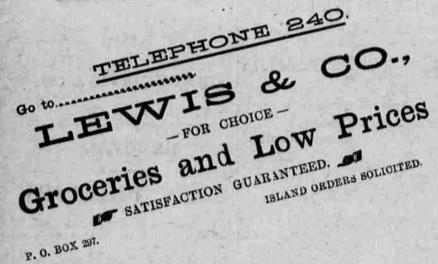
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ECME NEW BOOKS.

Brief Reviews of Im ortant and Intere ting New Publications.

It is hard to say what poetry is. The definitions of it that have been attempted from time to time are notoriously unsatisfactory. Of course it is not necessary that it should have rhyme, many practitioners have illustrated the principle that it may dispense with measure, and whether it is essential that it should have reason is as one may think. It is to be noticed in regard to "The Black Riders and Other Lines," by Stephen Crane (Copeland & Day, Boston), that the title does not speak of the contents of the little book as poetry or as verse. It merely speaks of "lines," which seems to us to be a sufficiently caution and accurate specification, as it would be indeed if the book were a dictionary, or a list of summer resorts, or a catalogue of garden implements. At the same time the impression that is conveyed is the impression of the presentation of a poet, and we have no doubt that Mr. Crane would contend for the idea that "Black Riders and Other Lines" is poetry, supposing that a question in regard to its nature should ever arise. There are sixtyeight sets of lines in the book, and notwithstanding they are printed entirely in the capital letters, and with an uncontrolled generosity in the matter of margins, they are contained easily in seventy-s x pages. We may quote the sixty-sixth example, which presents a rather melancholy appearance standing all by itself is a corner of the white expause of the seventy-third page:

If I should cast off this tattered

And go free into the mighty sky; If I should find nothing there But a vast blue, E-holess, ignorant— What then?

What, indeed? The sixty-second example has also excited our interest and curiosity:

There was a man who lived a life of fire.

Even upon the fabric of time, Where purple becomes orange And orange purple, This life glowed, A dire red stain, indelible: Yet when he was dead, He saw that he had not lived.

We will also venture to quote the lines on page 64, mainly because they raise an interesting question of grammar:

The sage lectured brilliantly. B fore him, two images: "Now this one is a devil, And this one is me." He turned away. Then a cunning pupil Changed the positions. Turned the sage again: "Now this one is a devil, And this one is me." The pupils sat, all grinning, And rejoised in the game. But the rage was a sage.

We have long thought that the well known disposition of the general people was bound in time to overcome the final scruples of the grammarians and to establish such a phrase as "This one is me" as an accepted and proper form; but the time is not yet, and Mr. Crane's sage is to be esteemed for his unselfish spirit of prophecy rather than his accuracy under existing grammatical conditions. Whether or not the inspirations of Mr. Crane have in this book taken on the quality of poetry is something that we feel inclined to leave to the reader to determine. There can be no question, however, that they have taken on the form of lines.

Address all communications to the Editorial Department of the Independent to Edmund Norrie. Business letters should be addressed to G. C. Kenyon. This is necessary for the present as the Post Office will withhold all mails addressed simply to the Independent, owing to the suit brought by A. V. Gear.

The display of ladies' hats at L. B Kerr's show rooms on Queen street is drawing a large crowd. The variety in shapes and fashions is unequalled in in Honolulu. The prices bring the hats within the reach of all.

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